

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 13, 16, 19 - 21, 26 - 28, and 41 - 51 are pending. No new matter has been introduced. In a Notice of Allowance dated October 24, 2003, the Examiner allowed claims 1 - 13, 16, 19 - 21, 26 - 28 and 41 - 51.


An Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) is being filed concurrently with this Request for Continued Examination. The IDS includes references that were cited in a foreign office action for a related application. The IDS and references are presented to the Examiner in lieu of paying the issue fee.

Applicants respectfully request an Office Action on the merits. If the Examiner has any questions, the Examiner is requested to call either of the undersigned attorneys at the Los Angeles telephone number (213) 488-7400 should the Examiner believe that such a telephone conference would advance prosecution of the application.

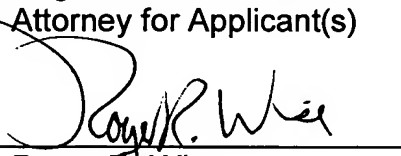
Respectfully submitted,

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